

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing system comprising:  
a license server ~~providing~~ configured to provide a license for utilizing content; and  
a terminal ~~requesting~~ configured to request the license from the license server,  
~~obtaining~~ obtain the license, and ~~utilizing~~ utilize the content based on the license,  
wherein one of the license server and the terminal includes:  
duplicate-license determination means for determining ~~whether or not that~~ the license  
requested by the terminal from the license server ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of a license already  
held by the terminal, and  
wherein the terminal includes:  
license-duplication reporting means for reporting license duplication indicating that  
the license requested by the terminal from the license server duplicates a license already held  
by the terminal according to the determination result by the duplicate-license determination  
means.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for requesting a  
license from a license server providing the license for utilizing content, obtaining the license,  
and utilizing the content based on the license, comprising:

duplicate-license determination means for determining ~~whether or not a~~ that the  
license requested from the license server ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of an already available  
license; and

license-duplication reporting means for reporting license duplication indicating that  
the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according  
to the determination result by the duplicate-license determination means.

Claim 3 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

purchase-requesting means for requesting a purchase of the license from the license server according to an operation of a user,

wherein the duplicate-license determination means determines whether or not the license to be purchased duplicates an already available license after or before the purchase-requesting means requests a purchase of the license from the license server.

Claim 4 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

confirming means for confirming whether or not a license which duplicates an already available license is purchased when license duplication is reported by the license-duplication reporting means.

Claim 5 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

license-identification-information acquiring means for acquiring license identification information of a license required to utilize content from the license server; and

license-list storage means for storing a license list of licenses already purchased, wherein the duplicate-license determination means determines whether or not a license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license by comparing the license identification information acquired by the license-identification-information acquiring means with the license list stored by the license-list storage means.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method for processing information comprising:  
requesting a license from a license server providing the license for utilizing content;  
~~obtaining the license;~~  
~~utilizing the content based on the license;~~  
determining ~~whether or not a~~ that the license requested from the license server  
~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of an already available license; and  
reporting license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license  
server duplicates an already available license according to the determination result in the  
determining step.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium storing a computer-  
executable program for processing information, and when the program is executed by a  
computer, the computer performs steps comprising:  
requesting a license from a license server providing the license for utilizing content;  
~~obtaining the license;~~  
~~utilizing the content based on the license;~~  
determining ~~whether or not a~~ that the license requested from the license server  
duplicates an already available license; and  
reporting license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license  
server duplicates an already available license according to the determination result in the  
determining step.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for requesting a license from a license server ~~providing~~ configured to provide the license for utilizing content, obtaining the license, and utilizing the content based on the license, the apparatus comprising:

determination-result receiving means for receiving from the license server a result of determination ~~as to whether or not a~~ that the license requested from the license server ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of an already available license; and

license-duplication reporting means for reporting license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to the result of determination as to license duplication received by the determination-result receiving means.

Claim 10 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

confirming means for confirming whether or not a license which duplicates an already available license is purchased when license duplication is reported by the license-duplication reporting means.

Claim 11 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

content-identification-information sending means for sending to the license server content identification information for identifying the content to be utilized,

wherein the determination-result receiving means receives from the license server a result of determination as to whether or not the license required to utilize the content identified with the content identification information sent by the content-identification-information sending means duplicates an already available license.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method for processing information for requesting a license from a license server ~~providing~~ configured to provide the license for utilizing content, obtaining the license, and utilizing the content based on the license, the method comprising:

a determination-result receiving step of receiving from the license server a result of a determination ~~as to whether or not~~ indicating that the license requested from the license server ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of an already available license; and

a license-duplication reporting step of reporting license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to the result of determination as to license duplication received in the determination-result receiving step.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium storing a computer-executable program for processing information, and when the program is executed by a computer, the computer performs steps comprising:

requesting a license from a license server providing the license for utilizing content;

~~obtaining the license;~~

~~utilizing the content based on the license;~~

receiving from the license server a result of a determination ~~as to whether or not~~ indicating that the license requested from the license server ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of an already available license; and

reporting license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to the result of determination as to license duplication received in the receiving step.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for providing a license for utilizing content in response to a request by a terminal utilizing the content, the apparatus comprising:

query means for making an inquiry about licenses already held by the terminal;

duplicate-license determination means for determining ~~whether or not~~ that the license ~~requested-provided in response to the request~~ by the terminal ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of a license already held by the terminal; and

determination-result sending means for sending a ~~determination~~ result by the

duplicate-license determination means indicating the duplication to the terminal.

Claim 16 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

license-information storage means for storing information about the license provided to the terminal,

wherein the query means asks the license-information storage means for licenses already held by the terminal.

Claim 17 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the query means asks a management server managing information about the license provided to the terminal for licenses already held by the terminal.

Claim 18 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein, when the duplicate-license determination means determines that the license requested by the terminal duplicates a license already held by the terminal and when a message confirming purchase of the license that duplicates the license already held by the terminal is sent from the terminal, the license requested by the terminal is provided to the terminal.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method for processing information for providing a license for utilizing content in response to a request by a terminal utilizing the content, the method comprising:

making an inquiry about licenses already held by the terminal;

determining ~~whether or not that~~ the license ~~requested~~ provided in response to the request by the terminal ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of a license already held by the terminal; and

sending a ~~determination~~ result ~~in~~ of the determining step indicating the duplication to the terminal.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium storing a computer-executable program for processing information for providing a license for utilizing content in response to a request by a terminal utilizing the content, and when the program is executed by a computer, the computer performs steps comprising:

making an inquiry about licenses already held by the terminal;

determining ~~whether or not that~~ the license ~~requested~~ provided in response to the request by the terminal ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of a license already held by the terminal; and

sending a ~~determination~~ result ~~in~~ of the determining step indicating the duplication to the terminal.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): An information processing system comprising:  
a license server ~~providing~~ configured to provide a license for utilizing content; and  
a terminal ~~requesting~~ configured to request the license from the license server,  
~~obtaining~~ obtain the license, and ~~utilizing~~ utilize the content based on the license,  
wherein one of the license server and the terminal includes:  
a duplicate-license determination section configured to determine ~~whether that~~  
the license requested by the terminal from the license server ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate  
of a license already held by the terminal, and  
wherein the terminal includes:  
a license-duplication reporting section configured to report license duplication  
indicating that the license requested by the terminal from the license server duplicates  
a license already held by the terminal according to the determination result by the  
duplicate-license determination section.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for requesting  
a license from a license server providing the license for utilizing content, obtaining the  
license, and utilizing the content based on the license, comprising:  
a duplicate-license determination section configured to determine ~~whether that~~ a  
license requested from the license server ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of an already available  
license; and



a license-duplication reporting section configured to report license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to the determination result by the duplicate-license determination section.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for requesting a license from a license server ~~providing~~ configured to provide the license for utilizing content, obtaining the license, and utilizing the content based on the license, the apparatus comprising:

a determination-result receiving section configured to receive from the license server a result of determination ~~as to whether~~ that a license requested from the license server ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of an already available license; and

a license-duplication reporting section configured to report license duplication indicating that the license requested from the license server duplicates an already available license according to the result of determination as to license duplication received by the determination-result receiving section.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for providing a license for utilizing content in response to a request by a terminal utilizing the content, the apparatus comprising:

a query section configured to make an inquiry about licenses already held by the terminal;

a duplicate-license determination section configured to determine ~~whether~~ that the license requested provided in response to the request by the terminal ~~duplicates~~ is a duplicate of a license already held by the terminal; and

a determination-result sending section configured to send a determination result by the duplicate-license determination section indicating the duplication to the terminal.